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PLANT CLEMATIS

This Fall



Fall planting—hill up soil

FALL is a good time to plant Clematis because soil conditions are ideal at this season. Set the plant carefully in place without breaking the ball of soil. If the plant is received bare, spread the roots carefully, setting the crown at least 2 inches below the surface. Firm the soil well around the roots and tie the canes to a small stake for support. A 4-inch tile or wire collar may be used as a protective measure around the neck of the plant while setting it out. Hill the soil well up around the roots to a height of 6 inches as winter protection. Mulch with straw or leaves when winter arrives.

ADVANTAGES OF FALL PLANTING

The soil is in best condition for planting.

The plants will make an earlier start the next spring.

Larger vines and more bloom will be produced the following summer.



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CULTURE

Location

Clematis grows best in well-drained soil; in fact, it will not tolerate a place where the roots are continuously standing in water. However, a moist root run is necessary and can be provided by planting on the shady side of a fence or wall. Low-growing perennials or shrubs planted around the base of the Clematis will also give the needed shade. The tops should be in full sun for best bloom.



Soil

Rich garden loam of an alkaline nature is needed for Clematis. Well-rotted stable manure will furnish the necessary plant nutrients and lime will sweeten sour soil. Scatter the fertilizer around the plant each spring and dig it into the ground.



Support and Pruning

Like all vines, Clematis needs support. A trellis, arbor, wall or fence is suitable. Little pruning is needed for two years after planting. When the plants reach a good size, summer and fall-blooming kinds will require pruning in early March; spring bloomers need to be pruned in late winter. Take out only the dead wood of the latter; summer-flowering varieties may be cut back to 3 or 4 feet from the ground.



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